



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Management Enhancement Activity – Cropped Woodland Improvement

Cropped Woodland Improvement

The purpose of this enhancement activity is to promote a healthy forest ecosystem while harvesting a crop (other than timber or other wood products) from the woodland. This involves management by the manipulation of species composition, stand structure, stocking rates and canopy cover within a cropped woodland to achieve or maintain a desired native plant community for special forest products.

Benefits

Implementation of this enhancement activity can result in increased plant health and vigor, decreased intensity of pest outbreaks, decreased spread of diseases, decreased use of pesticides and improved water quality.

Criteria for Cropped Woodland Improvement

Cropped woodlands can cover a wide variety and types of plants and products. These products have different forest management requirements. Cropped Woodland Improvement is the development and implementation of a plan for the manipulation of forest growth through design and management. Specifically, a plan should address the competition for light, nutrients, moisture and allelopathic (toxic) effects to promote the production of a forest crop while maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem. Identify trees and understory species to retain to achieve the desired purposes. Species diversity should be promoted to avoid species-specific pests and to enhance wildlife food and habitat. Management options include, but are not limited to, pruning, selective thinning and the introduction of new species to achieve plant diversity or to re-establish native plants.

References

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